

II. Nordic-Baltic Region Countries' Profiles: Sustainability Adult Education and Policies

Task: to prepare an overview of our country profile on sustainability adult education and existing policies on education of youth, adults, civil society, and business. Also, to provide references on existing laws and programs of our country. Max 1000 words; not more than 3 pages.

Overview and Good Practices



I. Bottle and Can Deposit System

One of the best-implemented sustainability projects in the Republic of Lithuania has been the bottle deposit system, established in 2016.

The way it works is that when buying any type of beverage with a reusable/recyclable bottle with a special sign, the buyer has to pay 0.1EUR extra. They can get this money back by bringing the bottle to **any** supermarket or a bottle collection machine. This not only encourages the citizens and businesses to take part in bottle recycling, but also leads to less trash in public places, especially after big events, when people struggling with money gather the bottles in a matter of minutes, leaving the place clean.

At the end of 2017, **91.9%** of all beverage containers were returned!

More information about the project:

[Lithuania exceeds container return rate expectations as TOMRA supports new state-of-the-art deposit system](#)

This new project has led to Lithuania being one of the leading recyclers in the European Union:

[Waste management in Lithuania \(wilderness-society.org\)](#)



II. Benefits for Electric Vehicle Owners

Another good example of how the Lithuanian government has encouraged its citizens to be more eco-friendly is by offering various benefits for those who choose to drive an electric car.

For instance, electric vehicle owners are allowed to park **free of charge anywhere in Lithuania**. This is a significant monetary benefit, as parking prices for non-electric cars are being increased year-by-year.

Additionally, Lithuania offers a 4,000 EUR subsidy for purchasing an electric car! Link: [Electromobility in Lithuania: the breakthrough has happened, it's time to bury old habits | en.15min.lt](#)

Moreover, electric vehicles are allowed to use traffic lanes, normally designated for public transportation. These traffic lanes are established in the busiest streets of the capital Vilnius, allowing electric-vehicle drivers to save significant amounts of time during traffic hours.



[New signs for electric vehicles will appear on Lithuanian roads | Ministry of Transport and Communications \(lr.v.lt\)](#)

Additional benefit for electric car owners include free fast-charging stations across the country, with plans to increase the number of these charging stations tenfold by 2030:

[Number of electric vehicle charging stations in Lithuania to increase 10-fold by 2030 – minister - LRT](#)

III. Education on Sustainability

A simple but powerful kindergarten experiment in biodegradability is just one of the innovative ways schools in Lithuania are embracing sustainability.

The Lithuanian Children and Youth Centre's Sustainable Schools' programme began in 2013 to promote and create awareness about sustainable development through developing school communities that are better able to manage and develop their own resources. The programme was among nominees for the 2018 UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), part of UNESCO's wider work on ESD.

The programme works through the formation of Green Teams of ten people in educational establishments which can include everyone from teachers, students and parents to administrative staff. So far, 139 educational institutions ranging from kindergarten to non-formal settings have signed up to the programme to learn how to improve the quality of life for future generations.

[Imagination and energy help schools in Lithuania turn sustainability ideas into action \(unesco.org\)](#)

IV. More examples of policies and laws

In the past years, Lithuania has accepted many more laws related to SDG goals. Those include: Full scholarships for best students in each university course (SD4); Parental leave available for fathers and grandparents with the same conditions as mothers (SDG5); Mandatory additional day-off per month for both parents (SDG5); Compensation for Ukrainian refugee hosts (SDG16); and more.